



# Litter Picks

Electronic Newsletter

## Winter 2006

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement

**P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218.** (804) 698-4055 Fax (804) 698-4224.

DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

**Please note our new P.O. Box and Zip Code.**

*Welcome to Litter Picks, a look at litter prevention news in the Commonwealth and across the nation. We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related to litter prevention and awareness. Had a successful clean up event? Recognized companies or citizens for their clean up efforts? Let us know by sending this information to Sheila Barnett at*

[smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov).

### How Do Stafford and Spotsylvania County Get their Cargo Nets?

At the Virginia Recycling Association meeting in November, a Litter Prevention and Recycling Program Manager asked me how some of the jurisdictions have gotten cargo nets to give to the public when drivers enter landfills and convenience centers with uncovered loads. I called Diane Jones, the Litter Prevention and Recycling Program Manager for Stafford County. Ms. Jones said that her office searches for private local businesses that might be willing to donate or provide funding for them to buy cargo nets for citizens. One year, she put together a proposal for two local Wal-Marts. Her proposal included information about how much her locality spends on roadside cleanups a year. She took a deputy sheriff with her who she believes helped to get store employee and manager's attention. That year, both Wal-Marts gave her jurisdiction what Wal-Mart called an "Environmental Grant." She received two awards of \$500 from each store so she used her grant from the retailers to buy their cargo nets.

Ms. Jones' office is asking local businesses such as Geico if they will help them to buy cargo nets. In exchange, she will recognize businesses in local newspapers. To speak with Ms. Jones, call (540) 658-8680 or email her at [djones@co.stafford.va.us](mailto:djones@co.stafford.va.us)

### Where's the Trash?

According to letters being written to newspapers by Attorney Frank Kilgore of **St. Paul**, Virginia, it's getting hard to find roadside trash in **Buchanan**, **Tazewell** and **Dickenson** Counties and **Wise** and **Russell** Counties are catching up in cleanliness thanks to the success of the Assign-a-Highway program. The environmental court, established by Judge Joe Carico, a former prosecutor and deputy attorney general has also hit litterbugs hard with penalties of up to \$5,000 from civil litigation cases that have been held in Wise County.

The Honorable Judge Kilgore best states the success of the program in Coalfield country by stating: "Only the most dedicated idiots now dump trash in our region and they are routinely caught with hidden cameras and very dedicated litter control wardens."

Contact Bobby Justus at (276) 628-1600 or [bjustus\\_assignahighway@yahoo.com](mailto:bjustus_assignahighway@yahoo.com)

### Did You Know?

- ✓ The next Virginia Council on Litter Prevention and Recycling will be held on January 18 at 10:30 a.m. at the Henrico County Training Center. Contact Deb Van Leer at (540) 347-6811 or [deb.vanleer@faulquiercounty.gov](mailto:deb.vanleer@faulquiercounty.gov)
- ✓ The Litter Prevention and Recycling Grants have been awarded to 180 jurisdictions which received a total of \$1,457,295 for FY 2007. Contact Steve Coe (804) 698-4029 or [gscoc@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:gscoc@deq.virginia.gov)
- ✓ Approximately 11,000 groups and individuals participate in the Adopt-a-Highway. VDOT estimates that this saves taxpayers about \$3 million annually. Contact James Barrett (804) 662-9389 or [James.Barrett@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:James.Barrett@VDOT.Virginia.gov)

### Hanover Strives to Keep their Roads Trash Free

Hanover County has implemented the Assign-a-Highway program for probationers. Steve Chidsey, Landfill Director, Recycling Program Manager, Solid Waste Manager, said that this was in Hanover County's plans for next year, but a private citizen wanted Hanover County to implement the program immediately, so the citizen gave the county the money for the litter coordinator's salary and other related expenses for the first year of the program. For more information contact Steve Chidsey at 804-365-6178 or [sechidsey@co.hanover.va.us](mailto:sechidsey@co.hanover.va.us)

### Mayor of Virginia Beach Recognizes Clean Community Commission Volunteers

The Virginia Beach Clean Community Commission celebrated its 26th Anniversary at the 2006 Environmental Service Recognition Breakfast which was held on October 20, 2006. During FY 2006, VBCCC had 13,196 volunteers who contributed 33,026 hours of volunteer service, equivalent to 15.9 full-time employees. Mayor Meyera Oberndorf stated that volunteers saved the city \$524,666 in personnel expenses.

The Mayor presented 121 awards to volunteers as part of Virginia Beach's Environmental Service Recognition. Individuals and companies were recognized for their participation in Adopt-a-Programs and support of the environment in various other ways.

Contact the Virginia Beach Clean Community by calling (757) 385-4104 or [vbclean@vb.gov](mailto:vbclean@vb.gov)

## Litter Picks Continued

### Environmental Court in Wise County

The Wise County General District Court has set aside the last Thursday of every month as its Environmental Court Day to deal exclusively with littering and illegal dumping. The County Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance giving litter wardens the authority to file civil complaints against people who litter. Civil complaints are easier for courts to win rather than trying the defendants as criminals. When fines are collected, the money will go the Litter Control Department for future enforcement needs.

During the last week of October, two men were ordered to pay \$1,000 for illegal dumping.

Contact Greg Cross at 276-328-1000 or [cross\\_g@wisecounty.org](mailto:cross_g@wisecounty.org)

### Stewardship Virginia Volunteers Clean up Virginia

Stewardship Virginia promotes environmental awareness and projects that help the natural environment to thrive. Stewardship Virginia sponsors events in the spring and in the fall. Events were held September 1 – October 31, 2006. Approximately 3,063 Stewardship Virginia volunteers participated in 79 litter cleanups that took place in the Commonwealth.

Projects also included walking trail maintenance, a community care day, Habitat Programs, Arbor Day festivals, and removal of invasive species.

For more information about Stewardship Virginia, contact Bonnie Phillips at (804) 786-5056 or [bonnie.phillips@dcv.virginia.gov](mailto:bonnie.phillips@dcv.virginia.gov)

### What Constitutes Litter?

According to § 10.1-1416 Collection and survey of litter from the Code of Virginia, litter can be classified into but is not limited to the following categories:

1. Food for human or pet consumption;
2. Groceries;
3. Cigarettes and tobacco products;
4. Soft drinks and carbonated waters;
5. Beer and other malt beverages;
6. Wine;
7. Newspapers and magazines;
8. Paper products and household paper;
9. Glass containers;
10. Metal containers;
11. Plastic or fiber containers made of synthetic material;
12. Cleaning agents and toiletries;
13. Non-drug drugstore sundry products;
14. Distilled spirits; and
15. Motor vehicle parts.

For more information about this legislation, go to:

<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+coh+10.1-1416+500515>

### Earth Summit 2006

The **Clean Valley Council** held its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Summit for High School juniors and seniors on November 2, 2006 at the Roanoke Higher Education Center. The theme was “Choosing a Better Way.” There were 164 students from the City of Roanoke, Salem, County of Botetourt, Roanoke and the Town of Vinton.

The objective of the Environmental Ambassador Workshop was to teach students how to find interesting ways to present and promote environmental awareness issues in their communities. Student workshops included:

Trash to Treasure/Recycled Art – Students used recyclable materials to make sculptures.

Good Will Hunting on a Rescue Mission – Students made wearable clothes from recyclable material.

Lights, Camera, Action – PSA – Students created a PSA with an environmental message.

Choosing a Better Way, Computer Marketing and Design – Students learned how to be Ambassadors to the community.

Are There “Bugs” in our Watershed? – Students learned what bugs should be present in a watershed to indicate the cleanliness of the water supply.

Students learned ways that they can have a positive effect on the environment. Some of the ideas suggested included:

- ✓ Creating an in-school recycling program.
- ✓ Writing articles for newspapers
- ✓ Creating skits to educate fellow students
- ✓ Sponsor cleanup events
- ✓ Get involved with local governments

For more information about the Litter Summit, contact Ann Masters at (540) 345-5523 or [info@cleanvalley.org](mailto:info@cleanvalley.org)

### Journey Through the Chesapeake Bay

Clara Mills lead 70 children ages 9 – 12 from **Spotsylvania County** on a camping adventure back to 1607. The adventure was called *Journey Through the Chesapeake Bay*. The journey is a specialty camp that focuses on the evolution of litter from before Colonial times to the modern era. In the 1600s, the Native Americans used everything that they had and created no trash. Today, most of what we have is disposable and we have become a trashy nation with trash on the ground and in our waterways. Students brainstormed on how our society could return to having zero waste and imagined what a pristine world would be like.

Students took hikes along the James, York, and Rappahannock River and the Chesapeake Bay and conducted litter clean ups.

Campers learned about natural resources and what made the Jamestown site a good location for a settlement and the importance of taking care of those resources.

*Journey Through the Chesapeake Bay* won first place in the 2006 Keep Virginia Beautiful Award Litter Prevention Government Agency Category. The camp was so successful that Ms. Mills intends to lead another 70 children in this exciting adventure again next summer. Contact Clara Mills at (540) 507-7709 or [cmills@spotsylvania.va.us](mailto:cmills@spotsylvania.va.us)

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### What is New at Gateway Streetscape Foundation?

Check out the new website for the Gateway Streetscape Foundation and learn about their recent Trash to Riches Contest and their feature about not putting kitchen grease down the kitchen sink! Learn about their most recent litter pick up event and see what is happening on their Calendar of Events!

<http://www.gatewaystreetscape.org/>